

**Barbuda** is a small island in the SW Caribbean. On 1 November 1981 it gained its independence as a part of Antigua and Barbuda. Barbuda issued its own first Christmas stamps on 20 October 1969. Designed by R Grainger Barrett (in litho format) the stamps were all based on the same painting by Raphael of the Sistine Madonna.

**Jamaica** first issued a Christmas postage stamp on 25 October 1969. The stamps (designed by J. Cooler) feature The Adoration of the Magi (Foppa), Madonna and Child (Raphael) and The Adoration of the Kings (Dossi).

**St Vincent** issued its first Christmas stamps on 23 November 1970. They were designed by J Cooter and featured The Adoration of the Shepherds (le Nain) and The Virgin and Child (Bellini).

**Trinidad and Tobago** also produced a first Christmas stamp edition on 8 December 1970. The country made up for the previous lapse by at the same time issuing a stamp booklet and Christmas postcards. The stamps, designed by G. Drummond in litho format, featured The Madonna and Child by Titan, The Adoration of the Shepherds by le Nain, The Virgin and Child (Marondo) and The Adoration of the Kings by Veronese.

**Barbados** did not produce a Christmas series until 1983 when they marked the 50th anniversary of the Barbados Museum at the same time as Christmas.

**Christmas Greeting Labels/Christmas Seals** are placed on mail during the festive season to raise funds and awareness for charitable activities. They are particularly associated with lung diseases such as TB, and with Child Welfare. Christmas Seals are regarded as "Cinderella Stamps". In 1904 Einar Holboll, a Danish postal clerk developed the idea of adding an extra charitable stamp on mailed Christmas Greetings. To raise funds for children with tuberculosis. The plan was approved by the King of Denmark and the Postmaster. Over 4 million seals were sold in the first year. UNICEF/WHO funded mass campaigns in the Caribbean between 1951 and 1956. An example of an advert for the seals, and of a 1958 Christmas NAFTA seal from Jamaica is displayed.

**Postmarks** Whilst countries only began to issue Christmas postage stamps in the late 1960's many did mark the approach of Christmas with postmarks encouraging citizens to "Post Early For Christmas". A 1941 example from Trinidad is displayed. This particular envelope was posted by an Ed Fry who was a USA Engineer Officer working on the construction of the American bases.

**The UK** issued its first Christmas stamps on 1 December 1966. They featured children's paintings of The King of the Orient, and a Snowman.

Best wishes For Christmas Susan Taylor



Ed Fry, A.P.O. 803  
U.S. Engineers Office  
Port of Spain  
Trinidad, W.I.A.



Strayer College of  
Home Bldg  
13th & F Street  
Washington,  
U.S.A.



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO  
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS  
STAMPS VALUE \$1.78

On Jamaica Government Service



BUY T. B. CHRISTMAS SEALS



Mr. Lloyd Brandon  
3 Seymour Ave.  
KINGSTON 10.

POSTMASTER GENERAL  
KINGSTON, JAMAICA  
On Postal Service  
POST AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT





ARTSONSCRAFTPAPERS

This cover was posted to my father at British Paints in Trinidad in December 1966



Mr. J. N. Bailey  
 British Paints (Caribbean) Ltd.,  
 P.O. Box 540,  
 Port of Spain,  
 Trinidad,  
 West Indies.

The Philatelic Bureau  
 G.P.O., 2-4 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh, Scotland

The two special Christmas stamps were chosen from nearly 5,000 drawings submitted by children from all parts of the country in response to a competition announced in May. This is the first time that children's work has been used in British stamps. Apart from the value and the Queen's portrait the chosen designs are the complete, unaided work of the children, the original artwork being untouched.

The 3d stamp depicting one of the three Kings of Orient was designed by Tasveer Shemza of Stafford; the 1s 6d snowman design was by James Berry of London, S.E.26. Both children are six years old. The stamps are printed in photogravure by Messrs Harrison & Sons Ltd, of High Wycombe. The first day cover drawing of Father Christmas negotiating a chimney is the work of Ann Belshaw of Leigh, Lancs., who is nine years old.

The stamps can be obtained from The Philatelic Bureau in an attractive presentation pack which includes further details of the artists, their designs and printing. They cost 2s 9d each (plus 6d handling charge for orders up to 10s and 3s 9d handling charge for orders of 10s and above, to addresses in the U.K. and Commonwealth countries; or 9d and 4s respectively to Overseas addresses outside the Commonwealth).